

CLAIMS**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. An apparatus for combining delivery of first objects from a first transport conveyor (34) with second objects from a second transport conveyor (40), comprising:

5 a first continuous discharge conveyor (36) for transporting the first objects received from the first transport conveyor, comprising a discharge end;

a second continuous discharge conveyor (42) for receiving the second objects from the second transport conveyor, comprising a receiving end with a longitudinal axis, and a discharge end, and being rotatable about the longitudinal axis;

10 means for pivoting the second discharge conveyor about the longitudinal axis between a lower position in which the discharge ends of the first discharge conveyor and the second discharge conveyor are adjacent, and an upper position in which the discharge ends of the first discharge conveyor and the second discharge conveyor are spaced apart sufficiently to accommodate the first objects therebetween; and

15 means for synchronizing the pivoting means with discharge of the first objects from the first discharge conveyor and discharge of the second objects from the second discharge conveyor.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the pivoting means comprises a linear actuator (48).

3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the synchronizing means comprises a logic controller
20 (28).

4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first objects and second objects are tortillas, and the first and second transport conveyors are tortilla press conveyors.

5. A system for pressing tortillas comprising:

25 a first tortilla press (30) for pressing dough into first tortillas, having a first press conveyor (34);

a first continuous discharge conveyor (36) for transporting the first tortillas received from the first press conveyor, comprising a discharge end;

a second tortilla press (32) for pressing dough into second tortillas, having a second press conveyor (40);

30 a second continuous discharge conveyor (42) for receiving the second tortillas from the second press conveyor, comprising a receiving end with a longitudinal axis, and a discharge end, and being rotatable about the longitudinal axis;

means for pivoting the second discharge conveyor about the longitudinal axis between a lower position in which the discharge ends of the first discharge conveyor and the second discharge conveyor are adjacent, and an upper position in which the discharge ends of the first discharge conveyor and the second discharge conveyor are spaced apart sufficiently to accommodate the first objects therebetween; and
5 means for synchronizing the pivoting means with the first press conveyor, the first discharge conveyor, the second press conveyor, and the second discharge conveyor.

6. The system of claim 1 wherein the pivoting means comprises a linear actuator (48).

7. The system of claim 1 wherein the synchronizing means comprises a logic controller (28).

10 8. A method for combining delivery of first objects from a first transport conveyor (34) with second objects from a second transport conveyor (40), comprising the steps:

receiving the first objects from the first transport conveyor onto a first continuous discharge conveyor (36) having a discharge end;

15 receiving the second objects from the second transport conveyor onto a second continuous discharge conveyor (42) comprising a receiving end with a longitudinal axis, and a discharge end;

intermittently pivoting the second continuous discharge conveyor about the longitudinal axis between a lower position in which the discharge ends of the first discharge conveyor and the second discharge conveyor are adjacent, and an upper position in which the discharge ends of the first discharge conveyor and the second discharge conveyor are spaced apart sufficiently to accommodate the first objects therebetween, synchronizing the pivoting of the second continuous discharge conveyor with the first discharge conveyor and the second discharge conveyor;

20 discharging the first objects from the first discharge conveyor while the second discharge conveyor is in the upper position, and

25 discharging the second objects from the second discharge conveyor while the second discharge conveyor is in the lower position.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the first objects and second objects are pressed dough, and the first and second transport conveyors are press conveyors.